

Meter Readers Test Segway™ HTs

The City of Seattle recently purchased 10 Segway™ Human Transporters (HTs). Sometimes called a "scooter," the Segway HT is better described as a self-balancing electric-powered transporter designed for short-distance travel.

As part of the City's environmental stewardship, we are committed to making the City's fleet of vehicles as "green" as possible by reducing emissions from gas-powered vehicles and adding alternative-fueled vehicles. Because it runs on electricity and produces no emissions, the Segway HT could become an integral part of the City's "green" fleet.

We are currently conducting a series of tests to learn if, how, and/or where this new technology can improve customer service, increase efficiency and/or productivity in the different ways we conduct City business. The first test involves meter readers from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU).

During the SPU test, meter readers fill out daily use logs to keep track of information on route completion times, the ability to read every meter on the first attempt, and how many times the device's batteries are changed during the route. They also track if they feel less physically tired at the completion of their routes, the comfort of riding the Segway HT in various weather conditions, and how citizens respond to their approach. Part of the evaluation will look at the potential for minimizing the use of vehicles on some routes.

The SPU test will cover one complete 40-day meter reading cycle. Each day during the test, six meter readers cover their routes on Segway HTs.

Because this is a new way to travel, you probably have questions. Please understand that the meter readers are taking part in an evaluation project and they have to stick to a schedule. This sheet will provide you with answers to some of your questions.

For more information about the Segway Human Transporter, visit www.segway.com

For more information about Seattle Public Utilities,
call 684-3000, or visit www.seattle.gov/util/

For more information about Fleets and Facilities' Segway tests, visit
www.seattle.gov/fleets/default.htm

For more information about the City's "green" fleets program, visit
www.seattle.gov/environment/clean_air.htm



City of Seattle
Fleets and Facilities Department



Printed on recycled paper

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who is going to use these?

A: We are just beginning the evaluation of possible uses. Initially, Seattle Public Utilities meter readers will participate in a two-month test. Over the next couple of years, the Fleets and Facilities Department will conduct tests with other groups of City employees to determine if the Segway HT could improve customer service, efficiency and/or productivity. Some possible employee groups include emergency medical service teams in the Fire Department, Seattle Center employees, and building inspectors from the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use.

Q: Why do City employees need these?

A: In terms of efficiency and productivity, a person can move two to three times faster on a Segway HT than walking. In addition, one of the models the City is testing can carry up to 75 pounds of equipment in attached cargo bags. In some City applications, this ability to carry more equipment than a person walking would enable the operator to perform work that might otherwise require a return trip with a vehicle to haul tools. In addition, the tests will determine whether this method of transportation can be an

environmentally friendly – “green” – addition to the City’s fleet, and/or a tool to improve customer service, efficiency and productivity.

Q: Are Segways allowed on sidewalks?

A: Yes, the state-authorized operating environments for the Segway HT include sidewalks, and bike paths.

Q: What kind of training do City employees have before operating the Segway HT?

A: Employees go through a mandatory eight hours of training before operating a Segway HT. Training includes approximately three and a half hours of class time, and three to four hours of riding time, during which users are trained how to handle different obstacles, proper riding technique, machine familiarity and safety. Employees must also pass an assessment test on the written portion of the class and riding skills.

Q: How do they operate in the rain and snow?

A: The Segway HT is a sealed unit and can run through puddles and wet environments. Snow tires and studdable snow tires are available for the Segway HT.

For more frequently asked questions, visit www.seattle.gov/fleets/default.htm

Segway Human Transporter (HT) Specifications

The City of Seattle is evaluating two models of the Segway HT: the **e-167** and the **i-167**. The e-167 is configured to carry cargo and is able to balance on its own with a feature called “e” stand, for electronic kickstand.

	e-167	i-167
Speed	up to 12.5 mph	up to 12.5 mph
The expected sidewalk speed would be between 6 and 9 mph depending on conditions such as other pedestrians, or obstacles on the pathway.		
Range	The range of both units is listed as between 11 and 17 miles for a 150 lb. rider. Part of the evaluation is to determine what our working range can be. Determining factors in range are: weight carried, terrain, tire pressure, and throttle control.	
Turning Radius	The turning radius for both units is zero feet, essentially in its own space.	
Payload	250 lb. Rider 75 lbs. of cargo	250 lb. rider
Footprint	19" x 25" (w/removable cargo bags, 19" x 30")	19" x 25"
Weight	95 lbs.	83 lbs.